Ner. How like you the young Germaine, the Duke of Saxonies nephew?

Por. Very vildly in the morning when hee is ſober, and moſt videly in the afternoone when he is drunke: when he is beſt, he is a little worſe then a man, and when he is worſt he is little better then a beaſt, and the worſt fall that ever fell, I hope I ſhall make ſhift to goe without him.

Ner. If he ſhould offer to chooſe, and chooſe the right Casket, you ſhould refuſe to performe your Fathers will, if you ſhould refuſe to accept him.

Por. Therefore for feare of the worſt, I pray thee ſet a deepe glaſſe of Reyniſh wine on the contrary Casket, for if the Devill be within, and that temptation without, I know he will chooſe it. I will doe any thing *Nerriſſa* ere I will be married to a ſpunge.

Ner. You needs not feare Lady the having any of theſe Lords, they have acquainted me with their determinations, which is indeed to returne to their home, and to trouble you with no more ſute, unleſſe you may be wonne by ſome other ſort then your Fathers impoſition, depending on the Caskets.

Por. If I live to be old as *Sibilla*, I will die as chaſte as *Diana*, unleſſe I be obtained by the manner of my Fathers will: I am glad this parcell of wooers are ſo reaſonable, for there is not one among them but I doat on his very abſence: and I pray God grant them a faire departure.

Ner. Doe you not remember Lady, in your Fathers time, a Venetian, a Scholler and a Souldier that came hither in company of the Marqueſſe of *Mountferrat*?

Por. Yes, yes, it was *Baſſanio*, as I thinke ſo was he call'd.

Ner. True Madam, he of all the men that ever my fooliſh eies look'd upon, was the beſt deſerving a faire Ladie.

Por. I remember him wel, & I remember him worthy of thy praiſe. How now, what newes?

Enter a Servingman.

Ser. The foure ſtrangers ſeeke for you Madam, to take their leave: and there is a fore-runner come from a fift, the Prince of *Moroco*, who brings word the Prince his Maſter will be here to night.

Por. If I could bid the fift welcome with ſo good heart as I can

bid the other foure farewell, I ſhould be glad of his approach: if he have the condition of a Saint, and the complexion of a Devil, I had rather he ſhould ſhrive me then wive me. Come *Nerriſſa*, ſirra goe before: whiles we ſhut the gate upon one wooer, another knocks at the doore. *Exeunt.*

Enter Baſſanio with Shilocke the Iew.

Shy. Three thouſand Ducates, well.

Baſ. I ſir, for three months.

Shy. For three months, well.

Baſ. For the which as I told you, *Anthonio* ſhall be bound.

Shy. *Anthonio* ſhall be come bound, vvell.

Baſ. May you ſted me? Will you pleaſure me?
Shall I know your anſwer.

Shy. Three thouſand Ducats for three months,
and *Anthonio* bound.

Baſ. Your anſwer to that. *Shy.* *Anthonio* is a good man.

Baſ. Have you heard any imputation to the contrary.

Shy. Ho no, no, no, no: my meaning in ſaying hee is a good man, is to have you underſtand mee that hee is ſufficient, yet his meanes are in ſuppoſition: he hath an Argoſie bound to *Tripolis*, another to the *Indies*, I underſtand moreover upon the *Ryalto*, hee hath a third at *Mexico*, a fourth for *England*, and other ventures he hath ſquandred abroad, but Ships are but boardes, Saylers but men, there be land Rats, and water Rats, water Theeves, and land Theeves, I meane Pyrats, and then there is the perill of waters, vvindes, and Rockes: the man is notwithſtanding ſufficient; three thouſand Ducats, I thinke I may take his bond.

Baſ. Be aſſur'd you may.

Iew. I will be aſſur'd I may: and that I may be aſſur'd, I will bethinke me, may I ſpeake with *Anthonio*?

Baſ. If it pleaſe you to dine with us.

Iew. Yes, to ſmell Porke, to eate of the habitation which your Prophet the Nazarit conjured the devil into: I wil buy with you, ſell with you, talke with you, walke with you, and ſo following: but I will not eate with you, drinke with you, nor pray with you. What newes on the *Rialto*, who is he comes heere?

Baſ. This is ſignior *Anthonio.* Enter *Anthonio.*

Iew. How like a fawning publican he lookes.

 I hate